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Oswald considered 'a kook'

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A former CIA official with personal knowledge of the case says he believes the Soviets and Cubans considered Lee Harvey Oswald "a kook" and never encouraged him to kill John F. Kennedy.

David A. Phillips, who was involved in CIA surveillance of the Cuban embassy in Mexico City in 1963, said the agency knew Oswald had contacted Cuban and Soviet diplomats there more than a month before Kennedy's assassination on Nov. 22, 1963.

"My conviction, based on my personal knowledge of Oswald's contacts with Cuban and Soviet officials in Mexico City before the assassination, is that they considered him a kook and that he returned to Dallas alone," Phillips said yesterday in an interview.

"I know of no evidence which establishes that Oswald was encouraged by either embassy to kill President Kennedy. And I remain convinced today that they did not."

THE WASHINGTON POST reported yesterday that the CIA intercepted and recorded a telephone call Oswald made from the Cuban to the Soviet Embassy in Mexico city during his 1963 visit, but furnished only part of the transcript to the FBI and, later, to the Warren Commission which investigated the Kennedy murder.

The Post said the CIA deleted that portion of the conversation in which Oswald offered "information" of an unspecified nature to the Soviets in return for paid passage to the Soviet Union.

OF OSWALD'S VISIT to Mexico City, Phillips said, "I have the recollection, hazy after 14 years, that Oswald intimated that he had information which might be useful to the Soviets and Cuba and that he hoped he would be provided free transportation to the Soviet Union by way of Cuba . . .

"I do not know what CIA information concerning Oswald's visit was passed to the Warren Commission. All that I do know has been provided to the Senate subcommittee which investigated the assassination when I testified to them."

The Warren Commission concluded that Oswald acted alone in shooting Kennedy.

THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE said both the CIA and FBI withheld from the commission information on Oswald's activities as well as notification that the CIA had been plotting to kill Cuba's Premier Fidel Castro—information which might have had a bearing on Castro's attitude toward plots to kill Kennedy.

Castro has been quoted as saying he knew Oswald had threatened to kill Kennedy but that he did not believe Oswald would do it and so he did not warn Kennedy.

A new House committee on assassinations is reinvestigating the Kennedy assassination in hopes of resolving persistent speculation about alleged conspiracies behind the murder.